

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 16147 070912Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
EB-08 OES-09 DLOS-09 /063 W
-----129783 071357Z /11

R 070836Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1022
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16147

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GPR, EFIS, JA, KS
SUBJECT: JAPAN-KOREAN DISCUSSIONS ON TAKESHIMA/TOKTO
FISHING

REF: A. SEOUL 7914 (NOTAL); B. TOKYO 16032 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO INITIAL FLURRY OF NEGATIVE REACTION FROM
SEOUL CONCERNING WHAT WAS OR WAS NOT AGREED TO IN JAPAN-ROK
MINISTERIAL MEETING CONCERNING POSSIBLE JAPANESE FISHING
ACCESS TO ROK'S 12-MILE ZONE AROUND TAKESHIMA/TOKTO (REF
A), MOFA OFFICIAL TOLD PRESS EVENING SEPTEMBER 5: "A
DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED TO HOLD ADMINISTRATIVE-
LEVEL TALKS, IN ORDER TO RETURN SITUATION TO WHAT IT WAS
BEFORE APRIL 30 (WHEN ROK ISSUED ITS 12-NAUTICAL MILE
TERRITORIAL WATERS DECLARATION) AND TO PREVENT ANY DISPUTE
FROM ARISING. I THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO UNEASINESS."

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2. AS REPLAYED HERE, SEOUL HAPTONG SEPTEMBER 6 REPORTED
THAT ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE SAID JAPANESE FISHING IN
KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AROUND TOKTO WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE,
AND DENIED JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS THAT KOREA HAD AGREED TO
SEPARATE ISSUE OF JAPANESE FISHING FROM QUESTION OF
SOVEREIGNTY AND TO ENSURE SAFE FISHERY OPERATIONS AROUND
ISLAND.

3. MOFA NE ASIA DIVISION OFFICIALS SAID THAT DESPITE SPATE OF NEGATIVE STORIES FROM SEOUL, WHICH THEY THOUGHT WERE PREDICTABLE IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITY OF TAKESHIMA/TOKTO AS DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE IN ROK, KOREAN SIDE GAVE WHAT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO JAPANESE REQUEST DURING MINISTERIALS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON RETURN TO PRE-APRIL 30 FISHING ACCESS AROUND TAKESHIMA/TOKTO. OFFICIALS ADDED THAT NOTHING THEY HAVE SEEN IN PRESS REPORTS FROM SEOUL THUS FAR APPEARED TO CALL INTO QUESTION ROKG COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE IN SUCH TALKS. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
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